



Power outage affects Roy Ivor, Schreiberwood rez

Students left in the dark for over 10 hours before generators start supplying power

By JULIE TYIOS

Many residence students found themselves in the dark last week, literally, on account of a power outage that affected Roy Ivor Hall and Schreiberwood residences.

Power went out at 11 p.m. last Wednesday evening, triggering emergency lights and questions from confused students. Questions could not be answered by administration until Thursday afternoon, when it was discovered that a cable line leading from North Building to the residences had been damaged. Both residences were fed power from the station located within the building's main source.

Hot water had run out in Roy Ivor Hall by noon Thursday, forcing students to shower at facilities in the North and South buildings. Power was temporarily restored on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. by diesel-powered generators located in Lot 7, until the problem could be permanently fixed.

"Facilities Resources is currently working with various contractors to further investigate the situation and identify the best possible solution" assured Chris McGrath, director of residence and residence life. "Without having a thorough diagnosis of the problem, we are unable to determine when a permanent solution will be in place, however, we will work to ensure that one is in place as soon as possible."

Students who had to return to their rooms in Roy Ivor Hall were offered hot chocolate by desk staff to help ward off the chill. Many students, however, were upset at the power outage and questioned why they were not given any information by the university.

"It's cold as hell," complained first-year Roy Ivor resident Christa Rankin, surrounded by her friends at her kitchen table on Friday afternoon. "We're hungry. We wish people could tell us what's going on. We've been sitting here since last night."

Another first-year student, Patrick Liu, also complained as he waited in the cold second-floor hallway.

"A lot of things you can't use" he stated. "The internet connection is down and the lack of hot water is a big inconvenience. I also saw people who couldn't get in the front doors last night because they are power-operated."

See Students, page 2



Photo/Julie Tyios

The sun sets over Roy Ivor Hall residence on one of the coldest days of the year and more than 10 hours after the power inside the building first went out. Students were left without heat, electricity, or hot water overnight until contracting crews set up diesel-powered generators the next afternoon. Electricians are still working to replace the faulty cable that caused the outage in both Roy Ivor and Schreiberwood residences.

Students and staff supply needy Red Cross with generous blood donations

By KAREN SUE

This past Wednesday UTM students rolled up their sleeves and opened their hearts to donate blood for the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, held at the Student Centre all day. Beds and donor stations filled the

Presentation Room, along with eager students and staff who wished to give blood. Appointment slots quickly filled up, and by 3 p.m. many students had to be turned away.

Marilyn Deachman, R.N., the clinic supervisor, talked about the impact the recent tsunami tragedy might have

had in bringing such a strong turnout. She suggested that while response might have been better than expected because of global issues, people for the most part are usually very giving.

When asked why they had given blood, student comments revealed varying motives. First year student Mat Saunders said,

"It's our civic duty. It's the natural thing to do. People get in accidents and need blood." Nina Vukovic was more influenced by peer pressure, giving blood after her friends revealed to her the importance of doing so.

The clinic is set up to accommodate fifty-five donors throughout the day.

The half-litre of blood taken from each person adds up to about forty-five full bags that will be collected. Each unit is capable of helping three people in need.

The Red Cross will be returning to UTM Thursday, March 31 at the Student Centre from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for another blood donor clinic. Donors must provide two pieces of photo I.D., have eaten a full meal, be well hydrated and well rested. To insure that you receive a spot, appointments can be made prior to the actual date by phoning 1-888-2-DONATE or visiting their website www.bloodservices.ca for more info.



photo/Denise Gibson

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SC EVENTS

Students left in the dark by admin

Continued from first page

An email was circulated on Friday to all students in the affected residences from the office of Chris McGrath. It explained the cause of the power outage and informed students that generators would remain in working order until the problem could be resolved.

"I would like to thank the residents of Schreiberwood and Roy Ivor Hall who were affected by the power outage for their patience and cooperation as we worked with Facilities Resources to solve the problem" the letter stated. "I also commend those residents of other phases on campus who opened up their homes to allow their friends to relax in the warmth of their living rooms or take a hot shower. Your generosity is most appreciated. I also wish to extend our thanks to Paul Goldsmith and his team in Facilities Resources for their hours of tireless work in the sub-zero temperatures yesterday as they worked

to resolve this issue."

Restoration work currently continues on the power lines, hampered by snowstorms and freezing temperatures. It is unknown as to how long

it will take before the power lines will be replaced and in working order again, but the university remains optimistic that it will only be a short wait.



Photo/Julie Tyios

Many students, frustrated with the cold and lack of power, took their clothes and books and headed elsewhere for the weekend with unanswered questions about the what had gone wrong to cause the outages.

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When: Thursday, January 27th.

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When: Friday, January 28th, 7 p.m.

Where: Convocation Hall on the St. George Campus - 31 King's College Circle, Toronto.

Admission: Free for students. Tickets at SAC St. George.

ECC Bi-Monthly Meeting

The Erindale College Council (ECC) will be holding their bi-monthly meeting, during which a 25% parking fee increase will be voted on for the upcoming year. Students are encouraged to attend and voice their opinions to administration.

When: Thursday, January 27th at 3:15 p.m.

Where: Council Chambers, room 3131, South Building.

Heated debate rages at SCMB meeting over \$3000 safety audit

By JULIE TYIOS

Concerns were raised over a recent Student Centre Management Board (SCMB) meeting regarding the cost of a projected \$3000 safety audit that administration deems necessary to restore the building to safety standards.

The audit, which is to be done by a private company, is estimated at the present time to cost \$3000, and will accurately assess what needs to be fixed to bring the Student Centre up to standards with the City of Mississauga building codes. The audit will focus on smaller problems such as correct labeling of fire and safety doors, as well as consideration over the operation and accessibility of the Student Centre's SACWAC elevator, which currently is deemed unstable and hard to use.

The audit will be a part of a larger three-year project to improve the Student Centre facilities. Currently, there are problems with the building's foundations and other small aspects that were overlooked in construction, including proper roof drainage in the wintertime, a situation which could potentially cause bodily harm to unsuspecting persons.

University administration assures that the audit is necessary, but was met by student leader opposition at the meeting who were opposed to spending that amount of money on an audit. Representatives from the Students Administrative Council, Moneeza Ahmed, and Governing Council, Shaila Kibria, verbally opposed the cost of the audit on account of what they deemed to be

unfair use of student money.

"The Student Centre Audit is a great idea, but we also have to make sure that we implement all the suggestions of the audit responsibly, especially when money was involved," said Ahmed. "What was being proposed was to spend \$3,000 to do a Safety Study which would involve a consultant coming and examining doors and frames to see its safety. I am not opposed to the study; I am opposed to spending \$3,000 on just a consultant coming and examining stuff. When I mentioned at the Board to look into cheaper quotes, the sentiment was very negative by some of the administrative members of the Board, as they thought that no matter how much it cost, we should implement it right now."

The money for all Student Centre reconstruction projects is to come from funding set aside for such problems when they arose, constituting well over \$100,000. Student Centre Events Coordinator Jay Nicols explained to The Medium that a certain amount of money was set aside for such projects each year and thus far very little has been spent. He also noted that the Student Centre is nearing a decade in age, and structural problems occur naturally at this point in time with most buildings.

Currently, administration is meeting the demand set by Ahmed and Kibria to find a cheaper, more suitable alternative to the \$3000 audit that will still serve to assess the current problems within the Student Centre.

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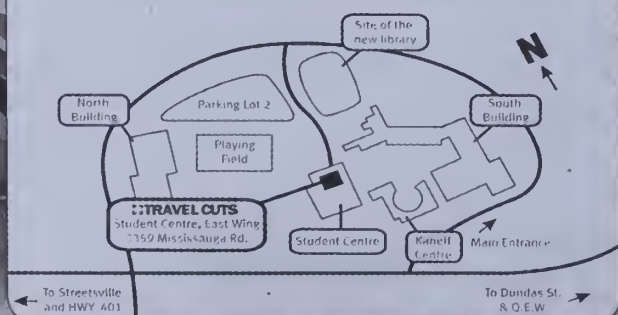


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SAC Winterfest lifts students' spirits with week full of fun

BY DOROTA KOSINSKA

With depression season kicking in full gear, the Students Administrative Council (SAC) and UTeaM have pulled together a first-annual week-long series of spirit-raising events in Winterfest. The initiative to bring some life into the dreary season was initially planned last year but only lasted one day. In order to promote some unifying spirit amongst the downcast students of Erindale campus, UTeaM has pushed for more of the engaging events, and will donate all the proceeds to the Tsunami Relief Fund to help the victims of the disaster.

Amongst the events was an imitation of the popular television show *Fear Factor*, where students were challenged to take a bite of some cat food and engage in other contests that would likely make the average Erindalean squirm. Monday night also hosted Casino Nite in the Presentation Room, which, due to the large turnout, was a huge success. Although no one went home broke after the night, the event was aimed to reflect a real casino atmosphere with some black-jack tables set up along with other casino-type games. Due to its popularity,

Berkha Gupta, SAC promotions commissioner, revealed that Casino Night is aimed to be an independent event next year.

Winterfest got really big on Tuesday, with Sumo Wrestling contests and an inflatable obstacle course that occupied most of the space in the Student Center. The day closed off with over 400 participants who had an awesome time, as one student exclaimed.

The X-Box tournament held in the evening was one of the biggest successes. The event was organized by UTM Athletic Council (UTMAC) and Vibe Radio, which created twenty teams, set up eight big screens, and cheered on fierce competition. Many students took this as serious business, with a promised one-on-one match to crown the King of *Halo*.

The overall week was a huge success even though some events like tobogganing and skating were cancelled due to unstable weather conditions. During the initial planning of Winterfest, temperatures were above freezing and the organizing committee simply did not have enough time to re-include these in the schedule when snow finally buried the campus. However, as soon as weather condi-

tions permit, SAC promises to set up a full fledged skating rink as well as the tobogganing event.

"We already got the magic carpets!" said Gupta. Hopefully the anticipation won't last too long.

One boost to Winterfest came from the Muslim Students Association (MSA), whose members celebrated Eid, a traditional religious festival that takes place every year on the 21 of January, commemorating the Prophet Abraham's sacrifice to God. The set-up for Eid was an independent function but it beautifully added color to Winterfest through the displays of traditional Muslim wear, henna painting, colourful jewelry, and delicious baked goods. The blending of Winterfest and Eid was seen as a way of working off each other, remarked a student at a stand with Muslim CDs and booklets for sale, as the MSA also donated a portion of their profits to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

"It's not everyday that people will get a chance to help," added Rabeeah Mohammad, MSA Secretary.

The funds raised for Tsunami Relief amounted to \$2500 by the end of last Tuesday, compared to the budget of \$5 to \$6000 for the week, but Erindale spirit is also covered in that

sum. The budget was, however, admittedly bigger than planned as no revenue was collected. And there were also those that stood up for student generosity. Amanda Walker, SAC Minister of Equity stated,

"It's great, but I don't think students should be the ones shelling out the money," as many of this year's festivities bore tsunami charges.

"I am really happy and proud of UTeaM and the Ministry of Student Life for organizing such an extensive

and successful week and raising over \$2500 for victims of the tsunami earthquake" stated SAC VP UTM Moneeza Ahmed.

Nevertheless, the week was an overall success in raising campus spirit and warming the soul with free hot chocolate. And SAC community building continues with the construction of a new website that is all about student ties at UTM. You might want to give it a look at www.sacutem.com.



photo/Denise Gibson

All eyes are on the ball during the Winterfest football tournament.

Yushchenko inaugurated

BY JULIE TYIOS

A new face of democracy was seen in the Ukraine yesterday as President-elect Viktor Yushchenko was inaugurated into office. The ceremonies took place early Sunday morning, ending a two-month political war over the nature of the election in which Yushchenko was a candidate against state and Russian favorite Viktor Yanukovich.

The election was tainted from the start, with fake ballots being cast in Yanukovich's favour to ensure his victory over Yushchenko's western-reform party in the November 21 election. The Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled on December 26 against the final outcome of the election, charging that it had been fixed and was not in the name of democracy. Yushchenko also suffered a health crisis when he was poisoned at a state dinner, allegedly by his opponent, which left his face horribly disfigured.

World-wide demonstrations backed Yushchenko's party and opposed the Presidential regime that held power, in collaboration with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"This is a victory of freedom over tyranny. The victory of law over lawlessness" remarked Yushchenko to his supporters in his inaugural address. The colour used in demonstrations around the world in protests over the election have given rise to the term "Orange Revolution" for the entire affair, one which the people of Ukraine feel had turned out for the better of their country.

Yushchenko made his address at Independence Square, the epicentre of most of the political protests held in his favour.

"The people of Ukraine had a fair election, the handover of power, the Ukrainian nation has risen," said Yushchenko, following the ceremony. "We have to work with the people and for the people."

Yushchenko promised a more fair and democratic country as part of his platform, ending years of oppressive behaviour by the former Ukrainian government against its people.

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FEATURES

For Real

Short Prose by Anonymous

Gerry limps out of the kitchen carrying a plate of chicken nuggets. He slides the plate onto the table in the center of the living room. I grab a nugget and take a bite. Gerry settles next to me on the sofa.

"Guy, did you like, fry these nuggets?" I ask.

"Shhh, not so loud. Your neighbours." Gerry brings his finger to his lip.

"Oh shit, was I loud?" I ask.

"Nah, not really, guy," says Gerry.

I laugh meekly and smile. The smile on my face aches. I can't help it. I turn my attention to 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' on TV. The movie feels more like 'My Big Fat Greek Life'. Time seems virtually suspended. Donna lies on her belly three feet away from the TV. Her hands hold her head and her feet dangle in the air. She hardly blinks or shifts her head. Not a peep in the last hour. At least I think it has been an hour. Feels like an entire night. Sam relaxes in the easy chair on my right and Rehan squats at the base of the sofa with the stacks of his written compositions to Gerry's left. Audio from the movie fills the room until I remember what I tried to ask.

"Gerry, bro, the nuggets?" I ask again.

"Oh yeah. No. I microwaved them, guy." Gerry bobs his head with a proud grin. "Nice, eh?"

I stare at Gerry and try to recall what he just said.

"NICE-E-E!" bursts Rehan ten seconds off cue. We laugh. The air in my lungs painfully squeezes out. I look at Sam. He smiles wide. Tonight's fun, compliments of Sam. Another typical night for him. I don't want to smoke up as frequently as Sam does.

Rehan leaps up in front of the TV.

"Look guys," he says, and rotates his arm, with his index finger extended, in a circular motion, "a CIRCLE!"

Gerry flicks his wrist next to his

head and snaps his fingers.

"Guy, you're hilarious," Gerry exclaims.

"All of you are soooo gone," Sam says.

Donna lashes out.

"Would you fucking sit down, Rehan? You're like an obnoxious kid. Let me watch the movie! Gerald stop encouraging him!"

She always calls Gerry by his real name.

"Sorry, sweetie," whimpers Gerry as he cups his left hand over his mouth to hide his smirk.

"Shhhhhhh. Quiet. The neighbours might complain" I say through a grin.

Rehan returns and sits back at the foot of the sofa where Gerry and I sit.

"Bitch," he curses under his breath. "You're supposed to have fun when you're high." Donna ignores us and glues her eyes to the TV.

"So dude," interrupts Sam as he switches the topic. "What are you, like, up to these days?"

"Same old, same old," I explain. "Not in school. No job. Just wasting away."

Everyone chuckles, except for Donna. She's lost in her movie.

"Don't worry, guy. It'll get better. Just enroll this Monday. Party,

smoke up and chillaxxx for the time being, bro," says Gerry as he exposes his pearly yellows and puts an arm around my neck.

I feel an uneasiness descend on me. How's it going to get better? I don't want to party and I should be in school and I should be studying and instead I'm getting high. God help me.

The Abdul Qader ring tone sings on my cell phone.

Rehan sings to the tune "Abdul Qader, aye! Naa Nununa na naa na naa nay..."

I'm too wasted to talk. I look at the ID display. It's Sonya, my cousin.

Oh no. She's supposed to be moving to Windsor today. I talked to her earlier in the day and asked whether she needed help. She said she might. I promised to help her if she needed it. I set the phone on mute. She leaves a message. I dial my voice-mail and listen to the message.

"Hi, Saf. It's Sonya. Give me a call back once you get this. Remember when you said to call if I needed any help. Well, I do need your help. Gimme a call. Byebye." She needs my help and I'm wasted.

"What's wrong, bro?" Sam asks.

"It's Sonya. She needs my help. Oh man. I'm so vile!"

I put my hand on my forehead and look up towards the ceiling.

"No, man. You mean wicked," says Rehan.

"Don't worry, guy. Just let her know you left your cell phone at a friend's place or something. I'll back you up. Chill, guy," Gerry says.

I get up from the sofa. I feel woozy. The cell phone rings again. It's Sonya again. My eyes water. I gave my word and I let family down.

"It's not chill, guy," I say.

"Guy, it doesn't matter. Just make an excuse. What are you getting so worked up for?"

I march to the washroom. My chest wants to explode. I lean over the sink and stare at my image in the mirror. My eyes are bloodshot.

I should be studying but I'm wasted and I should be working but I'm

wasted and I should be helping out the people who matter to me but I'm wasted and these guys aren't my true friends because true friends would never let me get so jaded and, fuck this. I'm not wasting my life away no more.

I see Rehan's reflection in the mirror. He creeps up from behind.

"Get Out," I say in a furious tone.

"I'm, um, I'm just trying to check up on you," Rehan quivers.

"Go home, Rehan. Tell everyone to get lost" I say.

"You serious?" he asks.

I storm out of the washroom and brush him aside. I march towards the TV set, switch it off and eject the DVD out of the player.

"Hey! What the fuck do you think you're doing?" Donna shrieks.

"All of you out! I don't want to chill any more. I don't want to get high. In fact I think I'll swear off weed forever. I'm going to start school and get a job. I don't want to hang out with you losers no more. I'm not wasting my time with you. No more parties at my place. You guys aren't welcome here no more."

"Are you out of your freakin' mind? What's wrong with you?" Donna screams.

"Shut the fuck up and take your fat Greek wedding with you!" I shout back.

I pack the DVD inside its case and hand it to Gerry. I wait by the door and point my thumb towards it. An

entire minute of silence passes. Rehan's jaw hangs loose, Sam shifts his head around, Donna seethes and Gerry's stone faced.

"Whoa. Swear off weed forever?" Sam says.

I open the door for them. "Come on, move."

Sam grudgingly gets up from the easy chair. Donna storms out without saying a word.

Rehan slowly walks up to me.

"What just happened? You for real?" he asks.

"Yeah, for real," I reply.

He nods his head up and down, purses his lips and steps out. Sam bumps me on his way out. He turns around and acts tough.

"You owe me for the weed, a'ight?"

"Send me the fucking receipt, you chutiya pot head," I reply. Gerry walks up to me straight faced.

"Remember when we talked last week about you taking control, taking action?" he asks.

"Yeah. I remember."

"Well, I'm proud of you, bro," he says and shows his warm smile. We hug tight. "Best of luck, guy."

"GERALD!" Donna screeches from down the hall.

"Gotta go. Don't tell Donna!" Gerry says as he scurries away.

I shut the door slowly behind him. I turn around to face my empty but messy apartment.

Thank you, Lord. It's a good start.

Juxtaposition

By Manuela Anamaria Rotar

As the years go by,
And thunder starts to rumble,
There is much more pain,
Impossible struggle.

Battle of the fittest,
Only the strong survive,
In the eyes of time,
The tears in the eyes.

A road never taken,
And no paths to follow,
People as one, together,
In this constant struggle.

And at the end of the day,
Away from all the pain,
The warmth of this love feeling,
Makes sorrow dissipate.

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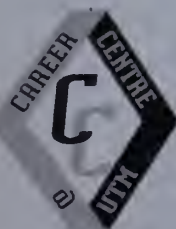
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Love

By Katarina Ilic

You fill up my senses
Like a cool breeze on a hot day,
Like the first breath of a new born babe,
Like a glass of water after a day in the desert.
I imagine how your love would shield me
Like a blanket,
You smile and I melt to pieces,
Oh how I wish our love could be
Could you ever learn to love me?

Creativity

By Vicki Simkovic

Creativity has at once left its nest
for conformity is its pest,
forcing upon us restricting norms,
allowing there to be only one form.
Yet in a world which craves disorder,
conformity can only go so far.
Creativity will not be scarred.
It lives on, for amidst the chaos, ideas
will arise.

Pave The World

By Nerrad Evorglens

We float.
We spin and we float.
We spin and we float around a
burning sphere of gasses in
the middle of nowhere and we
try to lend meaning to this
fleeting moment of existence
while we gather around us as
many possessions as possible.
Technology appeases every
momentary whim
and still we float.
Eventually, the mother ship
rescues us one at a time.
From dominion to oblivion in
one mortal step.

Never have our numbers
been so great.
Never have the demands on
this sphere been so rapacious.
Thankfully, it's getting worse.
We will eliminate our options.
Never will we have a chance
to do it again.

The mountains crumble under
the incessant maw
of machinery.
The waters rise in response to
our toxic emissions.
We consume the planet.
And it consumes us.

Mine it, refine it, build it
and buy it.
Pave the world,
it's there for the taking.
Trees don't speak.
Animals don't argue.
Persona non gratis:
they don't matter.

Christmas is the engine.
It stimulates the production.
It stimulates the destruction.
It demands consumerism.

We spin on this tiny sphere.
We tilt and whirl on an axis.
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We make lives, but our survival
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Blue Man Group joins Toronto scene

BY CANDICE JAY

The **Blue Man Group** will launch a Toronto production in June 2005. I hear no cheering or applauding; instead, I get a response of "Who are the Blue Man Group?"

Most of us wouldn't know it, but the Blue Man Group has been around for nineteen years, starting off in New York, expanding to Boston, Berlin, Chicago, Las Vegas and now, Toronto. The Blue Man Group is best known for their multi-media performances, but have also released record albums and toured in the widely acclaimed and successful Complex Rock Tour.

The critically acclaimed Blue Man Group aims to bring experiences to the audience. The group creates its own culture, community, society and most of all, a category of its own, by combining a rock band, comedy show, theatre and live music.

They are a trio of bald and blue characters who use multi-media and innovative percussion instruments, like a complex amplified set of plastic pipes called the Tubes, to create an unforgettable journey

which includes all your senses (with the exception of the sense of smell). Yes, even the sense of touch and taste if you are lucky enough to catch the marshmallows thrown at you.

The rest of the band, composed of guitars, drums and sound effects, are in the background wearing fluorescent patterned clothing in the black light. It is hard to describe the Blue Man Group, and they depend on word-of-mouth for their publicity.

"A blue head doesn't make people rush to buy tickets, therefore, their performance must blow people's minds," said Chris Wink, one of the group's founding members. Believe me, the performance does blow your mind away.

In their promotion performance held on January 19 at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, they demonstrated art, rhythm and comedy, a basic taste of what they are all about. Blue Man Group experimented with both a fun and serious side of musical talent, drumming on fluorescent paint, making the droplets dance and creating splatter paintings. They also played on the various electronically amplified Tubes and, for the masterpiece, a fully orchestrated piece which tugged your emotional strings in every direction, with its powerful and spectacular visual and musical climax. That was only a preview.



photo/Candice Jay

A trio of Blue Men play on the Tubes in a preview show. Now imagine the

complete production – dig into your favorite, elaborate and delectable dish.

The new Panasonic Theatre (651 Yonge Street), formerly the New Yorker Theatre, has been torn down, renovated and built according to the specifications of their new partner, Blue Man Productions. They plan to stay for five, ten, maybe fifteen years, so the investment of a unique, complex stage and state-of-the-art equipment is of no burden to the venue. The casting of talented blue man performers is in progress, but it's a tall order to fill. If you have a strong physical build and an open-minded, dynamic and charismatic personality, excellent drumming and percussion skills with an ambition to explore an alternative acting style, then the Blue Man Group calls YOU to audition.

The original Blue Men, Matt Coldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink, were street performers who established their own Club Nowhere on a sidewalk outside of the Copacabana. Now, the Blue Man Group has an enormous rehearsal and performance theatre plus a recording studio in their birth city of New York. The three original Blue Men made an appearance at the end of the show to further explain and help promote the production in Toronto. Why Toronto? Well, to add onto the Blue Man's list of major city productions and to bring its performance style to Toronto's diverse audiences. It is time to enlighten Torontonians of this spectacular group who plays off a kitsch culture.

Learn more at www.blueman.com

Martial arts action play

THEATRE REVIEW
13th Annual U of T Drama Festival

BY JOHN ARMSTRONG

One of the best-kept secrets of the Toronto theatre scene is the pay-what-you-can Sunday matinee. Students who are looking for an afternoon of entertainment on a budget can take advantage of the fine productions hosted by this small but groundbreaking theatre. One that this reviewer recommends is the current version of *Little Dragon*, written by Keira Loughran and directed by Marion de Vries, running until January 30.

This mounting of the play is an expanded two-hour version of the hit that grew out of Loughran's original script, which debuted at the 2002 Summerworks festival and earned rave reviews. The extra time and attention paid to set design and choreography have ensured that the play contains even more eye candy in the form of almost non-stop flying, leaping and martial arts inspired action.

Writer/actor Loughran plays Jen, a Chinese Canadian born in a mixed-race family and struggling to come to terms with her ethnic identity. The route that Jen takes as she seeks out her roots is unusual to say the least. The Japanese martial art of Aikido is the catalyst for her self-discovery while studying at Queen's University. The mechanics of the play rest on the conceit that her mental and emotional state can be expressed through these beauti-

ful and dance-like motions.

Setting the play in the politically correct 1990s on a typically anglo university campus is a wise decision, as it allows Loughran to poke fun at many cultural stereotypes and maintain a running commentary on some of the more absurd aspects of white liberal society in Canada. The observations that Jen makes concerning race and cultural politics are often hilarious. Particularly amusing are the clumsy advances of her roommate's friend Steve, whose shallow knowledge of Chinese culture leads him to believe he's got a leg up on the competition. Steve's character (played by Juian Doucet) will instantly strike a chord with anyone who's met the archetypal campus "White guy with an Asian girl fetish."

Things get strange when Jen's grandmother (Nina Aquino) gives her a picture of her deceased father that bears a strong resemblance to Bruce Lee. Jen follows the guidance of her wisecracking lesbian sidekick Euge (Michelle Polak) and begins to study Kung Fu and eastern meditation and philosophy techniques.

It shouldn't give too much of the ending away to reveal that the climax of the story involves tremendous action and physical excellence by all of the cast members. Those who have been enthralled and entertained by recent martial arts flicks such as *Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*, and Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* movies should take advantage of the opportunity to see some of this highly choreographed action performed live.

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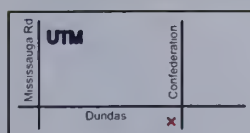
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13th Annual U of T Drama showcases student plays

THEATRE REVIEW 13th Annual U of T Drama Festival

BY SUMRAN BHAN AND
HELENE BAHSOUS

UTM kicked off the thirteenth annual U of T Drama Festival at the historic Hart House theatre on Wednesday January 19. Colleges from all across U of T submitted one-act productions between fifteen and sixty minutes long that had been, for the fourth consecutive year, written by students. The adjudicator for the festival was Shari Hollet, a Toronto actor, writer, director, and Second City alumnus.

The night started with *In the Skin of Sleep*, presented by the Erindale Drama Club. This play, written by Ana Candia and directed by Johanna Kristolaitis, presents a conceptual depiction of dream-reality confusion. The main character, Hattie (Sandra Klincov) takes us through her complex relationships with boyfriend, Rich (Daniel Bowers) and best friend, Celia (Diana Cofini), weaving in and out of her dreams and reality.

Hattie is forced to confront her psychological struggles. Through the course of the play, the character of Freud (Kevin Dowse) represents Hattie's struggle in trying to separate her reality and dreams. Freud was funny and provided a comedic relief but sometimes in the wrong places, pulling out the

dramatic build of the characters.

This play was technically ambitious, especially the use of the screen overhead Hattie's bed that illustrated her dream sequences; however, the transitions between the actions occurring on stage and the screen needed to be smoother. In spite of this, Kristolaitis managed to incorporate a strong use of imagery.

"Kristolaitis was trying to meet the ambitious script, but it was a bit too ambitious," Hollet commented. Overall, this was a challenging subject, and an interesting and thought-provoking one.

Blue Chalk Angel, written by Kara Dymond and directed by Jesse S. Calvert, is about a young man, Drew (André Gordon) who reveals his homosexuality to his best friends, Seb (Fraser Elsdon), Aidan (Darcy Rona), and Caleigh (Kara Dymond). The play is about life, friends, religion, belief and family. This play explored the idea that realizing true happiness can be achieved only when one is happy internally. The play, presented by Hart House Drama Society, started out very well with a crisp energy.

The actors had a good chemistry and proved to be a well-matched ensemble. Calvert staged the show clearly and concisely. The writing was well done, but Dymond used a lot of cliché themes. The technical aspects (set design, lighting, sound, and colour) created a mood that complimented the piece. Hollet stated there was a "nice arc to the story," however she felt that quick jumps were made in charac-

Eleven student-written plays were performed at Hart House Theatre by various U of T drama groups over the four day festival

ter development.

The last play of the evening, *The Cruelty of Women*, was written by Patricia DeSales and directed by Michael Page. This play, from the St. Michael's College Drama Society, featured an array of colourful characters that created a humorous atmosphere. This story about women takes place at a Toronto hair salon that Natalie (Jennifer McCarthy) inherited from her deceased mother.

Natalie runs the salon with the help of her barely competent friend, Sydney (Ashley England). The story unfolds when Evelyn Cartwright (Sarah Warren) and Katherine Princeton (Joey Martinovic) visit this salon to indulge in their weekly ritual of pampering. The outrageous outfits and hilarious mannerisms of these two uptown women made the audience laugh. They spend their time gossiping at the salon, only to be interrupted by an "average Jane," Anna (Corinne Stikeman).

The set was the most complex of the night, depicting a realistic salon with many bottles of hair products, curlers, clips and a hair dryer. The actors provided a strong physicality of the characters; however, DeSales failed to develop the character's emotions on a deeper level. Hollet said that the play was "very fun and satisfying."

BY TRISHA WELDEN

The second night of the U of T Drama Festival featured a satire, a high school moral lesson and zombies.

Victoria College Drama Society's *A Way Without Leave*, written by Dave Read and directed by Tamar Avishai, begins with Harry (also Dave Read) returning home from WWII. His wife, Mary (Shelagh Rowan-Legg), greets him with brownies, before explaining how she sold the children. We soon learn Harry didn't go to war, but next door to have an affair with Jane (Diana Bentley) whose husband Bill (Graeme Dymond) was off at war. Or so we think until he comes out of Harry and Mary's kitchen.

This hilarious tongue-in-cheek look at war and the picture-perfect era of the mid-century had many visually and physically brilliant moments; however, it was hard to tell what point, if any, it was trying to make. One thing is for sure: the final tableau – the classic kiss with the woman dipped by her soldier – will forever change your perception of the historic home-coming.

Fifteen-year-old Tiffany (Lianne Tripp) begins and ends UTSC Drama Society's *Parental Advisory* with a rant about how she can do whatever she wants. Written and directed by Aaron Ballantine, this play strikes a resemblance to the morality-type plays that toured high schools to encourage good behaviour, complete with mediocre staging and some really bad acting (mostly on the part of Angela Barbosa as Liz, Tiffany's older sister).

After Tiffany swipes a few beers at Liz's party, she has sex with eighteen-year-old Rick (O. Prithipaul), just after her sister has tried to make a move on him. Right before that, Rick was sexually assaulting Kelly (Leya Kiloh), unseen

by the audience. John (Stephen Edgell), the upstanding guy, kicks Rick out of the party and walks Kelly home.

At this point, an announcer says someone was quoted after September 11 about the absence of God in modern North American society; Liz recites the quoted passage as she changes from her party clothes into a housecoat to become Kelly's mom. Although the quoted section is relevant to the moral of the play, it came totally out of left field, making it one of the most awkward transitions I've seen. All in all, this play could have something to it, but it was hard to tell through the poor direction and average-or-worse acting.

The final show of the night was also presented by UTSC Drama Society: *Lovely Day*, written and directed by Andrew C. Epstein, is a blend of horror and humour. Twenty years from now, bio-chemical warfare has resulted in zombies. Yosef (Ray Bramberger) stumbles onto Miraj's (Sameen Ashraf) hideout; they share stories, stale food and questionable liquor while awaiting their fate. These scenes are alternated with Yosef's dreams in the form of infomercials for Zombitrol, in which zombies praise the new lease on life it has given them before biting someone.

This play included an opening dance number and a really cool shot to the head. Bramberger brought us with him on this tough surreal journey, but Ashraf seemed to be cast more for a Lara Croft look than her acting ability. The zombie ensemble was fantastic, lurching and groaning through the scene transitions in a hilariously horrific way. The main downside to the play was that the hide-out scenes were further upstage and sometimes hard to hear. Overall, it was a great concept, well-staged with both funny and touching moments.



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Brass quintet is true entertainment

CONCERT REVIEW True North Brass

BY SYED SARFRAZ ALI

The proudly Canadian quintet, True North Brass, along with the Mississauga Philharmonic Orchestra, warmed the minds and hearts of Mississaugans while frigid cold snow fell outside. Starting with the national anthem, they rang out tunes of patriotism, spirituality and beautiful jazz throughout the Living Arts Center's Hammerson Hall.

With Scott Irvine on the tuba, Alastair Kay on the trombone, Joan Watson on the french horn, Raymond Tizzard and Barton Woomert both on the trumpets (all Yamaha instruments), and John Barnum as the Music Director and conductor of the orchestra, this great assemblage created an intricate and delightful performance.

Boasting an already impressive résumé of musical achievements, the True North Brass showed personality

and humour through quirky comments between pieces, which gave an insight into Canadian music history and its uniqueness. Drawing inspiration from the Canadian national anthem, as their names suggests, they played various compositions contributed by band members Scott Irvine, Alastair Kay and from other noted Canadian composers.

The first half started out strong with the lifting overture by Scott Irvine "Strong and Free." "Tango" by James McGrath, one of their many contributors, showed their multi-cultural talent and clearly bested any other tango composition you might hear in any Hollywood movie. "Fantasy on Two Newfoundland Folk Songs" left Joan Watson to play a solo with the orchestra and created a *Lord of The Rings* fields through the Shire effect.

In the second half, Scott Irvine explained how he derived the "True North" piece from the English Canadian anthem. After that the show went into a bit of a lull through another overture and

two pieces involving only the orchestra. It reminded me why most young people don't bother to listen to Classical music.

The next piece broke away from the night's program. Barton Woomert (who used to teach the trumpet at University of Toronto) played a soothing, aesthetic solo with the orchestra called "The call of the wild." The last three pieces picked up the pace with Alastair Kay's vision of jazz and blues. The quintet walked off stage while still playing their instruments; the crowd cheered for a good three minutes while the quintet came back on stage to take a bow with the orchestra members.

As I walked out, I noticed the mostly aged audience and wondered why younger people didn't appreciate the beauty of jazz and classical symphonies. I got into my snow-covered car and switched on the radio. Ludicrous's "Stand Back" blared out of my speakers; that answered my question. I switched the channel to 96.3FM instead, to keep the magic going for the night.

Touching tale of Unity hits home

THEATRE REVIEW Unity (1918)

BY TRISHA WELDEN

Unity (1918) shows us that the turn of the century is surprisingly like present times. Near the end of WWI, a deadly flu comes home with the returning soldiers. The effects of the epidemic and the war on the town of Unity show that fear, love, joy and sorrow are inherent in every time of crisis and change.

Beatrice Wilde (played beautifully by Ashley Hand) narrates the town's events and reactions from her diary while they are played out in front of us. Her best friend, Mary (played sweetly by Jordi Hepburn), waits for her beau, Richard, while her younger sister, Sissy (played with youthful exuberance by A.J.



photo/James W. Smagata

Sissy (A.J. Laflamme) entices Michael (Christopher Sironi) in *Unity (1918)*.

Laflamme), is preoccupied with the coming apocalypse and the farmhand, Michael (played charmingly by Christopher Sironi). When the flu hits, everyone gets scared and most get sick, including the doctor; Beatrice acts as town nurse, while Sunna (played

thoughtfully by Laura Wombwell), the undertaker, has increasing work to do. There is also reference to farm work, particularly with the awkward Stan (played touchingly by Steven Boleantu).

This is a dark comedy with many touching moments. The comic relief comes largely from Hart (played with ease by Cory Doran), a blind soldier, and Doris (played splendidly by Julie Gouin) and Rose (played hilariously by Ashley Condon), the town's operators.

The show has many wonderful moments, both in the acting and the staging. Director Patrick Young makes good use of the multi-level set and the thrust stage. James W. Smagata's lighting and sound design complement the play throughout. This is a truly great piece of theatre for anyone who likes to laugh and cry in the same night.

Unity (1918) runs until January 29 at Theatre Erindale. For more info, call 905.569.4369



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Thirteen is a very lucky number for UTM

THEATRE REVIEW 13th Annual U of T Drama Festival

BY SEAN LYPACZEWSKI

Let's face it: Friday was cold. What better way is there to spend a freezing Friday night than at the U of T Drama Festival? On the bill for the night was *Eel Critic*, from the UTSC Drama Society, *Paper Trails*, by our very own Erindale Drama Club, and finally *Created Delusions*, from the Trinity College Drama Society.

The night started out with *Eel Critic*, written by Gordon Lane and directed by John Loerchner. The play was a three person piece, dealing with experience, communication, philosophy, and amongst other things, drugs. I have to give this play credit. It wanted to be innovative and original by taking a very intricate and poetic script and matching it with an abstract set and audio and visual stimuli in the background. It wanted you to think.

The problem was that, with all these things happening at once, it was impossible to do so. The language was sometimes too poetic to be understood, and the videos in the back became a distraction. While the set was visually appealing, the changes that had to be made to it throughout some of the speeches took away from the message of the play. All in all, it tried too hard to do too many things and ended up getting lost along the way.

Next was *Paper Trails*, written

by Jenny Salsbury and directed by Skye Plowman. The story was of a fire in a U of T women's residence, relating the stories of six girls and the memories of the things that they had lost. This was by far the highlight of the night.

The play was made up of multiple monologues from each girl, that ranged from the memories of a trip down to New York City to the suicide of a sister. The play went from heart wrenching to hilarious. Each character was completely believable and the script made you think that the writer had a direct tap into your mind and life experiences. It was definitely the best show of the evening. My congratulations to everyone involved: you showed the rest of U of T what this campus is capable of.

The last play of the night was *Created Delusions*, written and directed by Jessica de Bruyn. The story is about Holly, played by Izzy Leigh, who has been put in a mental hospital

because of some imaginary people that she had created and now can't get rid of. What was most interesting about *Created Delusions* was that the play was not linear. We started by seeing Holly in the hospital, then were shown different scenes to show us how she got there.

The play was also designed to make us question which characters were real and which weren't. We do not find out the real answer until the final scenes of the play, which then ends without giving you the final answer. Well acted and well put together, it was both interesting and fun to watch. All and all, it was a good end to a great night of theatre.

BY JESSICA SÉGUIN

The final evening of the U of T Drama Festival began with *Horizontigo*, which was presented by the Hart House Drama Society, written by John Walker, and directed by Chris Saunders. *Horizontigo* was the story of the vicious nature of the media to turn anything into a story as we followed the strangely interwoven lives of Frankie, Delia, and Roddy.

Frankie is a bad writer who gets a job at a Regina newspaper and enjoys heckling fast food corporations. Delia is Frankie's self-centered girlfriend who claims to be afflicted with 'Horizontigo,' a condition where she fears being able to see the horizon uninterrupted. Roddy is a troubled teen from Mississauga who was hated by everyone because his family only had one minivan and was fired from his job at a fast food outlet because of his meeting with Frankie.

Coleen MacPherson, who played the aptly named Verity, the reporter, did a fine job portraying the stereotype of the piranha-like newsperson eager to do anything to get the story, including editing testimonies to say what she wants, sneaking into people's houses, and destroying relationships. After the curtain call, I was left with not much of an impression, either positive or negative, and wasn't moved to caring, although it was a solid performance from all with

well developed characters.

The second play of the night and last of the festival was *Afterimage*, written and directed by Maureen Gualtieri, and presented by Drumroll Thunder Pause. *Afterimage* was a documentary-style play about the life and murder of fictitious British rock star Kate Bishop. The play was divided into five scenes as four different characters told us a portion of the story of Kate Bishop.

First we heard from Kate's husband Alastair thirteen years after the murder as he told us about the reason he got into music. Timpani, the daughter of Kate and Alastair, told us her few memories of her mother and her plans for the future. We then heard from the murderer just before he killed Kate Bishop. This could have been a pleasant juxtaposition between the opinions and memories of the bereaved if the audience could have heard what he had to say, but he wasn't loud enough. Finally, Kate Bishop herself gave an interview nine years before she was killed. Here again, there were problems with volume.

The British accents of Alastair and Kate were weak and fake. Anthony Furey, who played Alastair, had the greater problem in keeping his accent. Overall, it was interesting idea and well executed, although the writing may have been better served if there had been another director. It would have made a fascinating short film, but was rather vague as a play.

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Festival Awards

Erindale Drama Club won six of the ten possible awards this year. All winners are listed below.

1. President's Award for Best Production: *Paper Trails*, Erindale Drama Club (EDC)

2. Robert Gill Award for Best Direction: *Paper Trails*, Skye Plowman (EDC) and *A Way Without Leave*, Tamar Avishal, Victoria College Drama Society (VCDS)

3. I.A.T.S.E. Award for Technical Achievement: *Blue Chalk Angel*, Jesse S. Calvert, Hart House Drama Society (HHDS)

4. Hart House Theatre Award for Best Performance: *Paper Trails*, ensemble cast (EDC)

5. Robertson Davies Playwriting Award: *A Way Without Leave*, Dave Read (VCDS)

Merit Awards (adjudicator's discretion):

1. Jesse S. Calvert, direction, *Blue Chalk Angel* (HHDS)
2. Jenny Salsbury, playwriting, *Paper Trails* (EDC)
3. Claire Acott, individual performance, *Paper Trails* (EDC)
4. Janelle Hanna, female comedic performance, *Paper Trails* (EDC)
5. Dave Read, male comedic performance, *A Way Without Leave* (VCDS)

Students' Administrative Council Annual General Meeting

Friday, February 4, 2005 at 1:00 pm
Room 1050, Earth Sciences

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of Financial Statements
4. Report from Auditors
5. Motions (listed on right)
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

MOTIONS:

- a) Be it resolved that S.A.C. amend its Rules of Procedures as per the recommendations submitted by the Students' Administrative Council Board of Directors. (See www.sac.utoronto.ca after January 25, 2005, for exact changes.)
- b) Be it resolved that S.A.C. amend its By-Laws as per the recommendations submitted by the Students' Administrative Council Board of Directors. (See www.sac.utoronto.ca after January 25, 2005, for exact changes.)

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING?

You can proxy your vote. Proxy forms are available at all offices of the Students' Administrative Council. See www.sac.utoronto.ca for more information.

SPORTS

UTM Eagles engineer a 3-0 victory against St. George

BY NEIL MENESES

Goaltending, on both ends of the ice, may have saved UTM's B-team from a loss Wednesday night against the St. George Engineers (a.k.a. Skule A). UTM goalie Jon Miller made the win look easy for his team, shutting out Skule A 3-0. On the other end of the ice Skule A's goalie looked uninterested. He arrived late, well after both teams warmed up, and well after the referee blew the whistle to start the game. Still stretching halfway through the first period, he faced his first shots colder than the -24 degree weather that has hit Southern Ontario.

However, as the old adage goes, you win as a team and you lose as a team.

UTM, frustrated with the delay, repaid their frustration eagerly. The team vented by nailing several Skule A players within the first five minutes. #44 Jordan Latorre, defenseman for UTM, pounded out two gigantic hits on his second shift of the game, setting the physical tone early.

"(The physical game) is my everything...it's my whole game," Latorre, the third year geography major said of his physical presence.

After pounding Skule A early, UTM went up 1-0 on a power play goal by #26 Chris Miccelli. The hard shooting forward whistled a slap shot low glove side from the top of the

right circle. As wicked as the shot was, Skule A's goalie looked unprepared and hardly reacted to the attempt.

Miller, on the other hand, kept the game close for UTM. He snared a snap shot from in close with his glove hand, and stopped a breakaway, stretching out his right leg to steal a goal after UTM scored to make it 2-0 (on another goal that left Skule A's goalie and its fans confused).

The second period began 4-on-4 as both teams took penalties early on. As a result, the game play opened up. UTM's offensive game picked up. #66 Brian Ploem and #3 Adam Lentini both hit goal posts on partial breakaways.

Finally, #57 Dan Mazur scored UTM's third goal, on his third attempt to smack in his own rebound. Skule A's goalie kicked out a huge rebound on Mazur's initial shot and then didn't seem to realize Mazur's rebound shot hit him. Mazur stuck with the play and swatted in the insurance goal with 10:07 to play in the second.

UTM ran into penalty trouble shortly after. #66 Ploem took an inference penalty with 9:14 to play in the second, giving Skule A some momentum. Miller scrambled to keep his team in the game, and made two huge saves back to back. UTM's first star sprawled across the crease to stop a shot that ricocheted off the end boards and in front of the net. In the middle of the mayhem, Miller lost his

goal stick. He saved the following rebound with his stick-less blocker hand. Miller looked like Martin Brodeur with his stellar play.

UTM began to look overzealous with the physical game and #26 Miccelli drew a penalty with 4:16 left in the period. This time, UTM played a little stronger defense and didn't rely on their goaltending as much.

The period wound down with more hitting. The referees called the game after the second period as the clock struck midnight. (I guess that's all both teams paid for: one hour of ice).

Despite the hard hits, UTM's defense played a lot of hit or miss. They either connected or whiffed on their body checks like a power hitter in baseball who either cracks a home run or strikes out. Skule A's forwards beat UTM's defense on several one-on-ones, leaving Miller alone. The netminder, up to the challenge, neutralized the Engineer attack all game.

#40 Justin Sconci, player/coach and fourth year political science major, said "(The physical game) raises team spirit...we play a little faster." The physical game seemed to motivate them, as did inspired play from their goalie. However, he seemed carefree about UTM's penalty trouble in the last frame.

"Overall, its not a big factor...UTM's reputation, in all sports, is not so good with the referees."

Women's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties
Basketball Division 1	0	0	0
Basketball Division 2	0	0	0
Basketball Tri-Campus	0	0	0
Indoor Soccer Division 1	1	0	0
Indoor Soccer Division 2	0	0	0
Volleyball Division 1	0	0	0
Volleyball Division 2	2	0	0
Volleyball Tri-Campus	0	0	0
Lacrosse	1	1	0
Ice Hockey	2	0	0

Men's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties
Basketball Division 1	1	0	0
Basketball Division 2	1	0	0
Indoor Soccer Division 1	1	0	0
Indoor Soccer Division 2	0	0	0
Volleyball Div 1	1	0	0
Volleyball Div 2	1	0	0
Ice Hockey	2	0	0
IceHockey Tri-Campus	0	0	1
Lacrosse	1	0	0

Stat Of The Week

Roger Clemens of the Houston Astros became the highest paid pitcher in baseball history last Thursday when he signed a one year contract for a record 18 million dollars.



Erindale College

Student Union News and Notes

FROSH LEADER INFO

Be a part of UTM FROSH Week, be a Frosh Leader

Download your application at ECSU.CA or Drop by the ECSU office for details.

Frosh Leader Deadline: Feb 4.

ECSU Film Festival



Do you want \$300?

Check out ecsu.ca for details!

Logo Contest

Show off your skills as an artist!

SLEF, the committee that brings out the best of UTM's library, is asking for your help in designing a logo.

See ECSU.CA for details



ECSU-CA

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A sports week in photos



photo/Conrad Tang



photo/Denyse Gibson



photo/Denyse Gibson



photo/Denyse Gibson



photo/Conrad Tang



Photo/Gergin Naumov

Top left: UTM battles behind the net as they try to clear the puck from their zone. Top right: The Lady Eagles getting coached-upped during their indoor soccer game against SKULE. Middle left: The Eagles receive a free kick after a trip by SKULE; the Eagles would go on to win 5-0. Middle right: UTM falls but gets right back up against Law in their Division 1 volleyball game; the men would go on to win 2-0. Bottom left: UTM celebrates after putting home a goal against the opposition in their tri-campus game. Bottom right: UTM poses as champions after capturing the Georgian College OCAA Indoor Soccer Extramural Tournament on January 19.

Eagles' claim first win of 2005

BY TIFFANY LOW FOON

After a heart breaking 1-0 loss to Scarborough in the finals last term, the UTM Lady Eagles started off the 2005 season the right way by winning their first game of the new year.

On Wednesday January 12, the UTM Lady Eagles played against Woodsworth College. UTM met Woodsworth twice last season, both times winning by at least three

goals.

With five minutes left in the first period, veteran centre Amy Coates dashed past the Woodsworth defensemen and whipped one past the Woodsworth goaltender to put UTM on the board. Minutes later, another veteran center, Gina Rajack, slapped a hard one at the Woodsworth net. After deflecting off a Woodsworth player's stick, UTM found themselves up 2-0.

In the second period, rookie winger Meryl Probst scored on a rebound, putting the UTM Lady Eagles up 3-0. Coates and veteran defenseman Claire Pinsonnault got assists on Probst's goal. Veteran goaltender Megan Aleven preserved UTM's 3-0 win with her first shutout of the season.

The Eagles' next game is against FPEH/OISE on January 29 at 10 p.m.

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